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LACUNY Archives and Special Collections Roundtable, April 2014

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LACUNY Archives and Special Collections Roundtable Meeting

April 25, 2014 Minutes

This meeting was hosted by the City University of New York Dominican Studies Institute Archives and Library at the City College of New York

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 pm.

Julio Hernandez-Delgado, Roundtable co-chair offered words of greetings to those assembled and thanks to our gracious hosts.

The minutes of the meeting of Friday, October 25, 2013 were approved.

Sydney Van Nort, Roundtable co-chair gave an update regarding the LACUNY Archives Project. An announcement for this position to integrate recently acquired material into this collection over a 90 hour period was circulated and 42 applicants submitted resumes. Out of those applications, nine are outstanding and those individuals will be contacted to arrange interview appointments. The processing work is anticipated to be completed during June 2014.

This project was completed and the finding aid is available on the LACUNY website at: <http://lacuny.org/about/lacunys-history/lacuny-archives-finding-aid/>

Julio Hernandez-Delgado introduced the Rare Books Intern at the Hunter College Library, Samuel Lemley, a graduate student from the library school program at Long Island University. His faculty advisor was Dr. Fernando Pena. Mr. Lemley gave a presentation illustrated by PowerPoint Slides regarding the preservation survey of the special collections at the Hunter College Library. Those special collection items were inventoried and the data entered into a Google Document that could be accessed by Professor Hernandez-Delgado and Mr. Lemley. Photographs were taken of selected items to illustrate their condition and to determine what steps were needed to preserve them for the long term. The items were re-arranged so that no more than three oversized items would be stacked horizontally.

Idilio Gracia Peña, the Dominican Studies Institute Archivist and one of the hosts, provided an overview of the archival collections in the Dominican Studies Institute Archives. Photographs, paper documents, and, increasingly video recordings, have been received by this facility and have provided challenges in terms of preservation and access.

Sara Aponte, another of our gracious hosts, explained the mission of the Dominican Studies Institute Library and the on-going outreach to area schools to foster craft

exercises to introduce aspects of Dominican culture in a dynamic manner. She outlined how the Library of the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute is a unique reference collection whose mission is to identify, acquire, organize, preserve and make available bibliographical sources documenting the Dominican experience in the United States. Scholars from throughout the United States, the Caribbean, and Spain have visited to use the resources in this research library.

Anthony Stevens Acevedo, the Assistant Director of the Dominican Studies Institute, gave an on-screen presentation of the Spanish Paleography Digital Teaching and Learning Tool that he developed with grant support from the Office of Digital Humanities of the National Endowment for the Humanities. This online resource can be accessed via <http://www.spanishpaleographytool.org> to facilitate deciphering and the reading of prevalent early modern Spanish handwriting styles

Updates from other CUNY Repositories –

Old and New Business – There was not a quorum of members present therefore elections for new co-chairs were not held and those elections were tabled for the next meeting of the Roundtable.

A date for a subsequent meeting of the LACUNY Archives and Special Collections Roundtable was not determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sydney Van Nort/CCNY